The A. F. of L. Weekly News Service gives news accounts and editorial interpretations of matters affecting labor according to the legislative, executive, and judicial fields, and contains other information of benefit to the trade union movement.

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR
WEEKLY NEWS SERVICE

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WHOLE NO. 1716 WILLIAM GREEN, President WASHINGTON, D. C., TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 29, 1944 GEORGE MEANY, Secretary-Treasurer VOL. 34, NO. 9

WE PLEDGE—
1 BILLION DOLLARS
IN
WAR SAVINGS BONDS
FOR VICTORY

FACING the FACTS
With PHILIP PEARL

In all the discussion which followed the melodramatic flareup between the President and Congress over the new tax law, one important factor appears to have been entirely overlooked—and that is what Vice President Wallace was doing when the battle waxed hot.

So far as we can discover, the Vice President faded right out of the picture. If he attempted to back up the President at all, or if he tried to keep him advised, his efforts appear to have been entirely ineffectual.

It may be argued that under our system of government, the Vice President is merely a figurehead, that he cannot influence Congress or the President, that he must remain a decorative nonentity.

Even if this argument should be advanced by Henry Wallace's friends, it is demolished by the record of his predecessor, John Nance Garner. It is inconceivable that such a legislative crisis as the overriding of the President's veto on the tax bill—a crisis which in Great Britain would have required the formation of a new government—could ever have developed while Garner was Vice President.

The Results Count

Of course, Mr. Garner is a conservative and his ideas were held to be incompatible with the New Deal. Yet during his two terms as Vice President the great body of New Deal legislation was effectively steered to enactment.

Of course, Mr. Wallace is a liberal. Yet during his one term as Vice President, the New Deal seems to have lost its hold on Congress. Vicious, reactionary legislation has been adopted to the frequent embarrassment of the White House. On such basic issues as taxes, subsidies and a Federal ballot for soldiers, Congress has flatly refused to go along with the President.

We are not attempting to load the entire responsibility for this situation on Mr. Wallace's shoulders. Other serious factors are involved. But the ill-feeling between Congress and the White House which exploded into the open with the resignation and subsequent re-election of Alben Barkley as Senate Majority Leader is at least partly attributable to the fact that Roosevelt lacks a forceful and effective lieutenant on Capitol Hill.

These are facts—impartial facts—which should be obvious to observers of any political persuasion. In attempting to analyze the facts from here on, we wish to make clear that we are expressing our personal views and not the official policy of the American Federation of Labor.

It seems to us, as an individual observer, that Mr. Wallace's weakness can be summed up as follows—he is a student of ideas rather than of men. Opposition annoyers him. He is like a preacher who becomes inspired by the faith of his audience but falters as soon as he detects any doubts in the congregation.

Quaint Impartiality

Our disillusionment with regard to Mr. Wallace began when he was Secretary of Agriculture and we were a newspaperman. Among Washington newspapermen he was then known as "Tee-tee" Wallace, because of his unfortunate habit of stuttering perilously close to profanity.

About three years ago when we were planning to inaugurate the "Labor For Victory" broadcasts of the American Federation of Labor, we invited Vice President Wallace to appear on the opening program. We were unable to reach him directly and had to deal with a secretary who said the Vice President would take the invitation under advisement and let us know. A few days later we were informed by the secretary that the Vice President would be glad to speak on the program if it were under the joint auspices of the AFL and CIO but would like to be scheduled to take part in a straight AFL program for fear of showing partiality to one group in the labor movement.

Lo and behold our astonishment when we learned last November that Mr. Wallace had succeeded in overcoming his scruples to the extent of agreeing to address the CIO convention in Philadelphia!

Recently Mr. Wallace engaged in a harmstorming trip through the West during which he flatly predicted a world war if Roosevelt and Mr. Roosevelt would be re-elected to a fourth term. His statements were brought to the attention of the President at White House press conferences and the President, who naturally prefers to make his own decisions as to his future political course, appeared to be somewhat embarrassed by the inquiries. All of which brings up the question as to whether Mr. Wallace was motivated by solicitude for his chief or by a desire to claim exclusive jurisdiction over the President's coattails.

AFL Sets 15 Million Dollar Goal For Contributions To The Red Cross

New York City.—The American Federation of Labor has pledged to raise $15,000,000 for the forthcoming Red Cross campaign. Federation officials recommended a minimum of four times as much individual AFL ton, Seattle, St. Louis, Milwaukee and Red Cross contribution. At the same time, it was revealed that AFL members had contributed more than $25,000,000 to the recent National War Fund drive.

These figures and the Red Cross pledge were made public by Matthew Woll, president of the Labor League for Human Rights, official relief arm of the American Federation of Labor. He declared:

"There may be some among us who grow weary of appeals and extra service to the war effort. But, compared with the sacrifices borne by our sons, brothers and kinfolk who serve in the armed forces and those of our Allies, we have been called upon to do little in the worldwide struggle against totalitarian aggression.

"Our fair share for the Red Cross this spring should be at least four times that. If we all do our part, the contribution of the members of the American Federation of Labor to the Red Cross will reach the impressive total of some fifteen million dollars."

The record-breaking total raised by AFL unions in 850 cities for the National War Fund, Mr. Woll revealed, was in part accounted for by an honor roll of 25 cities in which union members contributed ten million dollars.

Heading this list of cities were New York, Chicago and Los Angeles, each with more than one million dollars to their credit. Hovering about the half-million mark were Philadelphia, Boston, Houston, Pittsburgh and others, averaged contributions of $250,000 each.

The general trend in the National War Fund campaign, according to Mr. Woll, has not only been towards a rise in the AFL's standard of giving, but towards a spread in the number of labor contributors to local community chests. This is shown by comparisons of total results and of average per capita contributions during the 1943 and 1943 campaigns.

A contribution of one million dollars from labor in a single day had never before been recorded in any relief drive, Mr. Woll pointed out, and very few cities, in 1943, had reached the half-million mark. In 1943, however, New York City doubled, and Chicago quadrupled, their 1942 results. In the case of others of the twenty-five cities cited for outstanding achievement, the increase in several instances reached the spectacular rate of 150 per cent.

The National War Fund's drive to raise funds from AFL members was supervised by the Labor League for Human Rights, which will perform the same function for the Red Cross during next month's campaign.

Green Hits Baruch Report For Denying Labor Voice

New York Industry Plans To Spend Several Billions For Post-War Work

New York City.—Private industry in this city has definite plans to spend "several billions of dollars" in the first five years after the war in preliminary steps toward resumption of normal business activities, Mayor La Guardia declared.

The Mayor predicted that this program would provide re-employment and general business prosperity not only in New York but also in many cities throughout the nation.

The Mayor's estimate of "several billions of dollars" was based upon a report made public by his New York City Committee on Post-war Industry, showing that a survey of 1,774 large, medium and small industrial concerns had revealed that 1,263 of them were prepared to spend a total of $1,200,000,000 for capital additions, repairs and replacements and other items required to put plants in readiness for civilian production and normal business. The survey, conducted by twenty-five expert engineers and based almost entirely on thoroughly interviews with business executives, indicated that 60 percent of the $1,200,000,000 would be spent in the first two years after the war, and the rest in the next three years.

Pointing out that the 1,003 concerns prepared to spend $1,200,000,000 constituted only 1 per cent of the city's 140,000 concerns, the Mayor contended that it was fair to assume that the total expenditure would be "several billions of dollars." The private industrial program, both the Mayor and the committee noted, was exclusive of the city's $1,000,000,000 post-war public works program.

Labor-Management Exposition Opens

Washington, D. C.—Safety and labor-saving devices invented by war-plant workers throughout the country will be exhibited here in the first national labor-management production exposition, expected to spur the achievement of 20 per cent higher production this year.

Motion pictures and dramatic exhibits at this war output show will illustrate how labor and management are cooperating in more than 4,000 war plants to keep supplies flowing to battle lines. Labor-management committees in these plants are exhibitors in the exposition, arranged through the W. P. B.'s war production drive.

In his invitation to previews of the show, designed to afford ranking government personnel a glimpse of the production front in action, Donald M. Nelson, WPB chairman said:

"As a sign of the powerful drive which the nation is making to increase war production in 1944, outstanding war plants are cooperating with the government in presenting the first national labor-management show. The methods and results of industrial teamwork vividly displayed at the exposition are splendid evidence of the determined effort of American labor and industry in backing America's fighting forces."

ILO Backs Minimum Social Policy Code For Dependent Territories

Montreal, Canada. — The International Labor Office announced it will suggest to the member states of the ILO that they go on record at the International Labor Conference opening in April 29 in Philadelphia as endorsing a minimum code of social policy for dependent territories.

The proposed code was made public in the report which will be submitted to the Conference. It calls upon each ILO member country to "take steps to lay the foundations for existence to promote the well-being and development of the peoples of dependent territories under the effective application" of a number of "general principles" of social policy. These general principles are:

1. "All policies affecting dependent territories shall be primarily directed to the well-being and development of the people of such territories."

2. To promote "economic advancement and thus to lay the foundations of social progress, provision shall be made, on an international, regional, national or territorial basis, for financial and technical assistance in the economic development of dependent territories in the interest of their peoples."

3. "All necessary steps shall be taken by appropriate international, regional, national and territorial measures to promote improvements in such fields as public health, housing, nutrition, social welfare of the children, the status of women, conditions of employment, the remuneration of wage earners and independent producers, social security, standards of public services and general production."

4. "All possible steps shall be taken to associate the peoples of dependent territories in the framing and execution of measures of social progress through their own appropriate institutions."

The draft recommendation also urges each country which is responsible for any dependent territory to "take the necessary steps to secure the effective application in such territory" of a series of minimum labor and social standards.

"The Bureau of Labor Statistics distorts our findings, as it has continually done since 1941, by counting living costs, and does not answer the

Frey Assails National Service Bill; Hails Labor's Wartime Achievements

Washington, D. C.—John P. Frey, President of the AFL Metal Trades Department, appealed to Congress in a nation-wide radio address, to defeat the National Service Bill which, he said, would only "militarize labor and convert the American arsenal of democracy into a citadel of bureaucracy."

Mr. Frey cited a long list of production achievements by free labor in this war, among which were:

"In 1943 the numbers of workmen employed in the production of Navy ships increased 82% over 1942, but the number of those ships launched in the tonnage built in 1942.

"The first Liberty ships took an average of over 1,000,000 man hours to build. Recently three yards, each of which have delivered over 200 Liberty ships, have brought their average down to less than 400,000 man hours, a tribute to the cooperation of management and labor.

"In 1941, 19,290 aircraft were delivered; in 1942, 47,873; and in 1943 over 85,948. This data however does not form a part of the story for since 1941 and 1942 the average size of the aircraft built has almost doubled.

"In 1941 the average weight of an airframe was 4,440 lbs. In 1942 it was 6,110 lbs., and in 1943 it was 8,630 lbs. Our production of airframes by weight has increased 900% since 1941.

"The goal set for aircraft production for 1943 was 100,000 planes, and we produced but 86,000. It has been implied that we failed to meet our goal. Actually however, in terms of the lighter weight 1942 plane, the production in 1943 was equivalent to 1,125,000 airplanes."

AFL-CIO Ask Poll of Housewives On War Increases In Cost of Living

Washington, D. C.—Organized labor challenged the government to submit the controversial issue of the extent of the increase in wartime living costs to a poll of the nation's housewives.

AFL Secretary-Treasurer George Meany and L. S. Buckmaster, of the CIO, labor members of the President's Committee on the Cost of Living, bluntly rejected the estimates made by the Bureau of Labor Statistics. They insisted that their own estimate that living costs had increased "at least 23.5 percent" since Pearl Harbor was conservative. The BLS, which puts the increase at only 24 percent, has called the joint AFL-CIO figures "absolutely wrong." Meany and Thomas retorted:

basic data and major conclusions of our report.

"No group of government bureaucrats have ever before had the audacity to insult America's millions of housewives, by telling them that their expenditures are all wrong and that they should instead try to live on BLS statistics."

The labor leaders proposed that the following question be submitted to a public opinion poll of American housewives:

"The AFL-CIO report found living costs rose 23.5% since January 1941. The BLS reports that they rose only 23%. Which report most closely is confirmed by your own experience?"

Promising "a full analysis of the BLS confessions and lamenta," the labor spokesmen termed the BLS report "the most insulting document to organized labor that has emanated from any department of Labor since the creation more than three decades ago."

Government Asks Union Assistance In Pushing Paper Salvage Campaign

Washington, D. C.—Joseph D. Keenan, Vice Chairman of the War Production Board, appealed to labor to help the American Federation of Labor to assist the Government in the waste paper salvage drive. His statement follows:

"One of the most acute problems facing the government today is the manufacturing of sufficient quantities of paper and paperboard to meet the demands of the military and critical civilian requirements.

"The increasing use of paper in the manufacture and delivery of war weapons and supplies, coupled with an extreme shortage of manpower to cut timber for the production of wood pulp, an essential ingredient in the manufacture of paper, has created this critical shortage. The use of additional waste paper is the only means we have to offset this condition. Thousands of extra tons of waste paper therefore are needed immediately to replenish the fast dwindling inventories at the paper mills which are now dangerously low. In many cases, mills are operating on a day to day basis, and some have been forced to shut down two or three days a week and therefore operate far from capacity.

"Millions of paperboard containers are being sent overseas to our fighting forces. Waste paper is one of the chief raw materials from which these containers and shipping materials are made. A large proportion of the things sent to our armed forces—machines, equipment, guns, ammunitions, food and medical supplies, blood plasma, and clothing—has to be individually wrapped in paper that has been waste proofed in various ways specially treated. Much of this paper has to be impregnated with asphalt and other waterproofing material, so that everything shipped will arrive in perfect condition at the battle areas. There are 700,000 items for the armed forces that require packaging.

In addition there are thousands of ways paper is being made into material of war. Some of these items are: bomb bands, airplane wing tips, cases, blasting powder bags, cannon flags, dust covers for motors and many other items.

"To date there is great need for an increasingly accelerated flow of waste paper is most certain. It must be collected from every source, such as stores, households, retail stores, business offices and industrial plants. Practically all kinds of waste paper can be used. Exceptions are waxed and other impregnated paper, and paper contaminated by oil. Every American man, woman and child can cooperate in this campaign—at home, in the office—in the store and in the industrial plant.

"Labor unions and their members are urged to participate in the waste paper salvage drive to their fullest extent by assist in aiding the critical shortage that is facing the country today in order that there will be available a sufficient containers for the safe shipping of war material and foods to our armed forces overseas.

"Labor unions are urged to appoint committees to actively participate in this campaign through the regular collection committees in their locality so that every scrap of waste paper may be turned to use in helping to defeat the Axis."

Labor Haters Plant "Time Bomb" Against Americanism, Watt Charges

Chicago, Ill.—Industrialists and politicians who are "planting a time bomb against labor were accused here by Robert J. Watt, AFL international representative, of "planting a time bomb against our democratic institutions."

Watt made his blunt charge before an audience of 2,000 employers at a dinner meeting of the American Management Association.

"Without the American army of production soldiers could have been no successful assault in the South Pacific, no invasion of Africa or Italy," he said. "If American workers had not labored hard and well, there might not have been the heroic story of Stalingrad.

"Despite all this, there are a lot of people in America who believe that workers in Washington, who think the way to beat Hitler is to put labor in a straitjacket."

Those on top who are preaching the "class struggle" against labor are playing Hitler's game and laying the ground for Fascism in this country, he declared.

The only real way to preserve democracy after the war is for labor and management to adopt cooperative planning now for post-war stability, Watt contended.

Union · Industry · Farmer Group To Set Post-War Policy Urged By AFL

Detroit.—AFL President William Green assailed the Baruch Post-war Report in an address here because of its failure to provide for labor, industry and farmer representation in the formulation of basic policies.

Speaking at a luncheon of the Economic Club of Detroit, Mr. Green called for the establishment by Congress of a Reconstruction Commission, on which all elements of the population would be represented, to lay down the guiding rules for the nation's post-war program. He said:

"This Reconstruction Commission would not, of course, attempt to administer the post-war program. That task can well be entrusted to the hands of a single, competent Administrator, as the Baruch report suggests. But the Commission would be charged with the responsibility of formulating the general policies to be followed by the Administrator. In that way we could achieve advance agreement and secure prior commitment to fundamental policies.

"I have heard only two objections to this plan. The first is an evasion. It suggests that industry and labor can safeguard their interests through advisory committees already established under the War Production Board and which operate in a consultative capacity. My impression, however, is that industry and labor have had enough of such consultation which usually comes after the fact and which accomplishes merely an empty gesture toward real and democratic representation.

"Secondly, some of our more subtle bureaucrats are heard to object to policy-making by 'pressure groups.' They call it 'log-rolling.' That is part of the new terminology of some government officials whose ideas on America are bounded by the two square miles of Washington. I resent the term. It is an insult to the workers, the businessmen and the farmers of America who, together make up the vast majority of the American people. Organized labor, industry and agriculture are asking for representation in formulating post-war policies because they represent the American people. They demand a voice in decisions, not to promote their particular selfish interests, but to safeguard the American way of life for which millions of American boys are now fighting."

To assure success of the nation's post-war program, Mr. Green recommended prompt liquidation of Government controls over labor and industry and the organization of a large scale production drive.

One project which he specifically urged was the launching of a huge housing program to supply the needs of the American people and to provide employment.

In addition, Mr. Green said America must "meet the transition period courageously" by providing a more adequate form of Social Security for the workers."

He asked that the National Employment Service be reorganized to serve displaced war workers and demobilized soldiers. This will be in urgent need of jobs. He added:

"I urge that preparations be made now to move boldly and swiftly when the call comes for overnight conversion from wartime to peacetime production. American private industry faces the opportunity of a century in the post-war period—the opportunity to provide jobs and peace on a scale even greater than it has shown it can do for war; the opportunity to establish an economy of plenty in America instead of scarcity; the opportunity to supply jobs and provide increasingly better living conditions and educational advantages for the American people; the opportunity for people to save and invest—for the opportunity to justify the advantages of our free enterprise system."

PALESTINE HOME BACKED FOR PERSECUTED JEWS

Washington, D. C.—A national conference for Palestine designed to mobilize American Christian sentiment in favor of opening the doors of Palestine for the resettlement of the uprooted Jews of Europe will be held here March 9, it was announced by Senator Wagner, chairman of the American Palestine Committee.

The conference will be sponsored by the American Palestine Committee in cooperation with leading labor and civic organizations, such as the American Federation of Labor, the Congress of Industrial Organizations and the Christian Council for Palestine.

MILLION FEWER INJURIES IN WAR INDUSTRIES URGED

Washington, D. C.—A million fewer injuries in 1944—that is the goal set by Secretary of Labor Frances Perkins at a meeting of the Labor Department's National Committee for the Conservation of Manpower in War Industries. Achievement of the goal would mean a 40 per cent reduction of injuries from the 1943 total of nearly 2,500,000 injuries.

The reduction would result in saving about 23 million days of work, Miss Perkins said. In manufacturing alone it would increase the number of workers on the job by 24,000 each day.

STAHL NAMED PRESIDENT OF ALUMINUM WORKERS

Louisville, Ky.—E. R. Stahl was elected president of the International Council of Aluminum Workers at the conclusion of the union's 3-day convention here by Robert J. Watt, AFL international representative, of "planting a time bomb against our democratic institutions."

Watt made his blunt charge before an audience of 2,000 employers at a dinner meeting of the American Management Association.

"Without the American army of production soldiers could have been no successful assault in the South Pacific, no invasion of Africa or Italy," he said. "If American workers had not labored hard and well,

LIBERTY SHIP NAMED FOR CORNELIUS FORD

Providence, R. I.—A new Liberty Ship, named after the late Cornelius Ford, former Public Printer of the United States, was launched here by the Walsh-Kaiser Shipyard.

Mr. Ford, a life-long member of the International Typographical Union, served as President of the New Jersey State Federation of Labor for several years and also as an organizer for the AFL. Elected to the New Jersey Legislature in 1910, he secured the enactment of a workmen's compensation act. He was appointed Public Printer in 1913 by President Wilson and served in that capacity during the First World War. One of his sons and four grandsons are now serving in the Navy.

LABOR PRESS MERIT AWARD CONTEST CLOSES MARCH 15

Newark, N. J.—March 15 is the deadline for entries in the Eastern Labor Conference "Award of Merit Contest" for labor publications in various fields, Lewis M. Herrmann, secretary-treasurer of the Conference and chairman of the Committee on Awards, announced. The contest is not confined entirely to affiliates of ELP. First and second awards will be made for each classification as follows:

1. International union publications. (A) Editorial excellence, (B) Typographical appearance.

2. Weekly labor papers. (A) Editorial excellence, (B) Typographical appearance.

3. Monthly labor papers. (A) Editorial excellence, (B) Typographical appearance.

4. Best single editorial.

5. Best original cartoon.

6. Best pictorial display.

For the above classifications three awards will be made: first, second and third.

Each participating publication may submit no more than three items which have been published between July 1, 1943, and March 1, 1944. All entries must be submitted to the awards committee not later than March 15, 1944. The winning publications will be exhibited at the annual convention of the Eastern Labor Press and awards made in several lanes.

An entrance fee of $1 must be paid by each publication entered in competition for the awards.

Entries in the "Award of Merit Contest" must be sent to Lewis M. Herrmann, Chairman, Eastern Labor Press Conference Committee on Awards, 22 Thirteenth Avenue, Newark 2, N. J.

MANY LABOR DISPUTES ARE ADJUSTED BY NLRB

Washington, D. C.—Employers are increasingly accepting the principles underlying the National Labor Relations Act and employes are using the National Labor Relations Board's machinery more, rather than resorting to direct action and strikes, Dr. Harry A. Millis, chairman, said in submitting the board's eighth annual report to Congress.

Fewer charges of employer unfair labor practices were received than in any of the five preceding years. Requests for secret ballot elections exceeded the total for any year since the board's inception. Dr. Millis declared that the unprecedented recourse to orderly elections was all the more noteworthy, since 75 per cent of all elections were one-union situations.

The total of 9,542 cases filed was the largest in the board's history. Of these, 6,140 were election cases, and 3,402 were unfair labor practices.

PRODUCTION AREAS GIVEN NEW RECREATION CENTERS

Washington, D. C.—To help war workers stay on the job at top efficiency and to reduce turnover and absenteeism, more than 740 new community recreation centers have been opened in 225 critical production areas, the Office of War Information announced. Its report said:

"Peak war production schedules have increased the need for recreation programs in crowded war centers. The Division of Recreation of the U. S. Office of Community War Services, Federal Security Agency, is helping to get programs under way in places where lack of adequate recreation has been one of the serious hindrances to full production. Other Government agencies concerned in varied aspects of community recreation programs are the War Manpower Commission, the Federal Public Housing Authority, the Federal Works Agency and the Government Division, War Production Drive Headquarters and Office of Labor Production of the War Production Board."